

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

SCS-03 SCA-01 ORM-01 SR-02 EUR-12 IO-10 /082 W

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R 270525Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6043

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4215

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: VS, US

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN INQUIRY INTO STATUS OF AMERICAN PRISONERS IN
SOUTH VIET-NAM.

REF: A) CANBERRA 3872 B) STATE 147496

1. DAVID GOSS (ASST SECRETARY, SOUTH ASIA BRANCH, DFA) INFORMED
EMBOFF JUNE 27 THAT AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN HANOI RAISED ISSUE OF
AMERICAN PRISONERS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM WITH PRG SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
TIEN ON JUNE 23. PRG ACCEPTED LIST OF BAN ME THUOT PRISONERS AND
NOTED THAT AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATION WAS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF
OTHER REPRESENTATIONS MADE ON BEHALF OF OTHER FOREIGNERS, IN
THAT AUSTRALIANS WERE SEEKING TO ACT AS A MEDIUM BETWEEN PRG ON
ONE HAND AND AMERICAN AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS ON OTHER.
AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY REPLIED THAT IT WAS PASSING ON TO PRG REQUESTS
OF HUMANITARIAN NATURE PUT TO AUSTRALIANS BY THOSE GOVERNMENTS.

2. TIEN REPEATED ASSURANCES TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PREVIOUSLY EX-
PRESSED WITH REGARD TO AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN, PETER WHITLOCK, THAT
GOOD TREATMENT WOULD BE SHOWN TO ALL FOREIGNERS. HE SAID THAT
PRG HAS MANY PROBLEMS IN ESTABLISHING LAW AND ORDER IN SOUTH
VIET-NAM AND HENCE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION
ON PARTICULAR INDIVIDUALS. TIEN SAID THAT HE HAS SEEN NO REPORTS
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OF EXECUTION OF ANY FOREIGNERS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM. HE SAID

AUSTRALIANS WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR REPLY ON CASES OF AMERICANS
AND CANADIANS CAPTURED AT BAN ME THUOT BUT PROMISED ACTION AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. GOSS UNDERTOOK TO ADVISE US AS SOON AS THERE IS FURTHER INFO
FROM AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HANOI.

4. EMBASSY PASSED ON TO GOSS DETAILS CONCERNING JAMES F. LEWIS
(REF B) ON JUNE 25. GOSS INDICATED HE WOULD PREFER TO AWAIT
REPLY ON PRISONERS CAPTURED AT BAN ME THUOT BEFORE RAISING
SINGLE CASE OF LEWIS.
GREEN

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